

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:FJFLEMINGS/CSAF/XOXX:MAJOR GRAY:ILB

APPROVED BY PM/ISO:JDSTODDART

EUR/NE - MR. FLOYD

EUR/NE - MISS PINKNEY

EUR/CAN - MR. KRUSE

OSD/ISA/FMRA - LTC TERRY

OSD/ISA/EUR - MR. JAMES

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TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012120

E.O. 11652: ADS - DECLASSIFY WHEN OPERATING RIGHTS GRANTED

TAGS: MILI, TGEN, CA, GL, IC, UK

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR OPERATING RIGHTS, PROJECT 5631

1. THE AIR FORCE'S CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH LABORATORY (AFCRL) DESIRES TO CONDUCT TWO AIRBORNE RESEARCH STUDIES DURING FEBRUARY 1974 IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC REGION. APPROVAL FOR SUCH STUDIES HAS ALREADY BEEN OBTAINED FOR CANADA AND GREENLAND.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED AIRBORNE RESEARCH IS PRIMARILY DIRECTED TOWARD SOLVING PROBLEMS OF ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PROPAGATION IN THE ARCTIC REGIONS. MANY OF THESE
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PROBLEMS ADVERSELY AFFECT AIR FORCE SYSTEMS OPERATIONS IN

THE FIELDS OF RADAR, COMMUNICATIONS, AND AIR NAVIGATION. AS A BEGINNING POINT FOR SOLVING THESE PROBLEMS, A MORE COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THE ARCTIC IONOSPHERE IS DESIRED. THE PROPOSED RESEARCH UNDER THIS PROJECT WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE MAPPING AND MODELING OF THE ARCTIC IONOSPHERE AND PERMIT UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNUSUAL REFLECTION, SCATTERING, AND ADSORPTION EFFECTS ON ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES WHICH TAKES PLACE IN THIS REGION OF THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. HOPEFULLY, THE KNOWLEDGE GAINED HERE WILL ALLOW SYSTEM DESIGN OR MODIFICATION TO EITHER TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OR ELIMINATE THE EFFECTS OF THESE CONDITIONS.

3. SPECIFIC ITEMS OF RESEARCH INCLUDE STUDIES DIRECTED TOWARD AN INTERPRETATION OF THE MORPHOLOGY OF ANOMALOUS LARGE-SCALE PHENOMENA CAUSED BY BOUNDARY INTERACTIONS OF THE IONOSPHERE WITH THE STRATOSPHERE, MESOSPHERE, AND THE MAGNETOSPHERE. IONOSPHERIC PHENOMENA PRESENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION INCLUDE AURORAL ZONE AND POLAR CAP IONIZATION. MID-LATITUDE RED ARCS AND AREAS OF RADIO ABSORPTION DUE TO STRATOSPHERIC PHENOMENA (NATURAL AND MAN MADE) ARE ALSO BEING INVESTIGATED.

4. TO ACCOMPLISH THE TASK AN INSTRUMENTED NKC-135, SERIAL NUMBER 55-3131 WILL BE USED, WHICH HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO CONDUCT IONOSPHERIC AND AURORAL RESEARCH. ONBOARD EQUIPMENT CONSISTS OF AN IONOSPHERIC SOUNDER, PHOTOMETERS, ALL SKY CAMERAS AND LOW LIGHT LEVEL TV SYSTEM, ALL AIR FORCE PROPERTY. PRIMARY AIRCREW CONSISTS OF FOUR OFFICERS AND FIVE ENLISTED, ALL U.S. CITIZENS. SECONDARY CREW MEMBERS PERFORMING AIRBORNE PROJECT FUNCTIONS WILL BE SIX DOD CIVILIANS AND THE USAF PROJECT OFFICER, WHO ARE U.S. CITIZENS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE DOD CIVILIAN WHO IS A GERMAN NATIONAL.

5. TWO FLIGHTS, GOOSE BAY TO MILDENHALL, WITH OVERFLIGHT OF ICELAND ARE PROPOSED ON OR ABOUT 18 AND 22 FEBRUARY 1974. THE RETURN FLIGHTS, MILDENHALL TO GOOSE BAY, ALL OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS ARE PROJECTED FOR 20 AND 24 FEBRUARY. USE OF PRESTWICK, SCOTLAND IS
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REQUESTED AS WEATHER ALTERNATE. FLIGHT PROFILES PLUS FINAL OPERATIONAL DETAILS ON FLIGHTS AND AIRCREW WILL BE PROVIDED TO USDAOs (COMICEDEFOR FOR ICELAND) A MINIMUM OF THREE DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST FLIGHT.

6. REQUEST ACTION ADDRESSEES OBTAIN HOST GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR AIRCRAFT STAGING/OVERFLIGHT AS DESCRIBED HEREIN. ALL DATA OBTAINED FROM THE PROJECT CAN BE MADE

AVAILABLE TO HOST GOVERNMENT UPON REQUEST. RUSH

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